Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4615 INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR JA KS

SUBJ: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS

REF: TOKYO 11997

- 1. NORTHEAST ASIA DIV DIRECTOR SEO TOLD EMBOFF 10:45
 SEPT 18 THAT AMBASSADOR USHIROKU HAD DISCUSSED ORAL STATEMENT
 WITH ROK PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER AT KIM CHONG
 PIL'S RESIDENCE EVENING OF SEPT 17. THOUGH MOST OF REMAINING
 DIFFERENCES SOLVED, QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY REMAINED
 STICKING POINT.
- 2. EARLY MORNING OF SEPT 18. GOJ SENT USHIROKU NEW INSTRUCTIONS. HE IS TO TELL ROK THAT GOJ NOT IN A POSITION TO ASSUME ANYTHING BEYOND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY. IF, HOWEVER, THE WORDING OF THE LETTER IS THE ONLY ROK CONCERN, GOJ PREPARED TO OFFER ALTERNATIVE EXPRESSION, ("JAPAN FEELS RESPONSIBILITY IN ITS OWN WAY"- SORE NADE NI) AS LONG AS KOREAN SIDE CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THAT JAPANESE POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED. USHIROKU INSTRUCTED TO PASS ABOVE MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER KIM AT EARLIEST CONVENIENCE, BUT AS OF TIME OF SEO CALL TO US HAD RECEIVED NO CONFIDENTIAL

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APPOINTMENT. SEO SPECULATED THAT CABINET RESHUFFLE

IN SEOUL MAY HAVE PREOCCUPIED PRIME MINISTER.

3. AT MEETING NIGHT BEFORE, USHIROKU HAD ALSO ASKED PRIME MINISTER FOR ASSURANCES THAT DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER ATTACKS ON JAPANESE PROPERTY BE STOPPED BEFORE SHIINA ARRIVED. KIM JONG PIL ASSURED USHIROKU HE WOULD DO HIS BEST AND WOULD BROADCAST RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT ON VISIT TO KOREAN PEOPLE. PRIME MINISTER ALSO TOLD USHIROKU HE HAD FOUND UPON CHECKING WITH KIM DONG JO THAT FOREIGN MINISTER' OFFENSIVE SEPTEMBER 16 INTERVIEW IN CHOSEN ILBO (REFTEL) WAS A FABRICATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, SPEECHES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 18 SEP 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO12055

Document Number: 1974TOKYO12055 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740261-0359

From: TOKYO

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740933/aaaabcff.tel Line Count: 73

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: TOKYO 11997 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: cunninfx

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 31 JUL 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by martinml>; RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS, (USHIROKU), (KIM CHONG PIL)

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005